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GENERAL NOTES

Nesting of the Green-winged Teal and Ruddy Duck in King County, Washington.---
On May 1, 1921, a nest of the Green-winged Teal (Nettion carolinense) was found, containing a single egg. The nest was about a half mile from any water, on a logged-off lot and concealed by a clump of bushes and vines. I returned late in the afternoon of May seventh; the nest was covered, arched over, with fine dead grasses. Mr. E. A. Kitchen and myself visited the nest early in the morning of May 15. The grasses that had covered the eggs on the 7th were pushed to the sides, the center being covered with down. We returned in the middle of the afternoon and found the female on the eggs. She sat very close and we observed her as long as we desired from a distance of five feet. The nest contained ten eggs.

A nest of the Ruddy Duck (Erismatura jamaicensis) was found on May 29, 1921. This nest contained seven eggs, far advanced in incubation, was securely fastened to growing cat-tails in a large swamp, the water about ten inches deep and the bottom very soft.

Another nest of this species was found July 3, 1921, in a similar location and contained seven eggs, five of the Ruddy Duck and two Mallards. The Ruddy eggs were far advanced in incubation and the Mallard's about one half.

D. E. Brown,
Seattle, Wn.

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Late nesting of the Pied-billed Grebe, King County, Wn. -- On July 9, 1921, a nest of the Pied-billed Grebe (Podilymbus podiceps) was found. This nest contained six nearly fresh eggs. The nest was the usual floating mass of vegetable matter and the eggs were covered in the usual way. I have never seen but one pair of grebes in this swamp. There were two broods of young, one about three quarters grown and the other very small. It would seem that this set was the third for this pair.

D. E. Brown,
Seattle, Wn.

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Notes on the Tule Wren, Tacoma, Wn. -- The nesting of our little Tule Wren (Telmatodytes palustris paludicola) continues to be of much interest. The past spring of 1921 showed that nest building begins late in February, consequently I wished to know when it ended. With this idea in view I visited the marsh frequently, the latest being July 28. On that date I found a pair carrying food to fuzzy-headed young that must have been only just out of the nest. Another pair had their mouths full of food and scolded me furiously, but I could flush no young ones and the very dense vegetation prevented finding the nest. From the actions of the parents I am positive that the young were still in the nest. I found one fresh nest that was heavily lined with feathers (thus proving it was not a "decoy") and which had never been used. The birds were not far away, and past experience convinces me that they will lay eggs in it later on. Altogether, it seems that we may safely place this wren among the front ranks of birds with extensive nesting seasons.

J. Hooper Bowles,
Tacoma, Wn.

Northwest Coast Heron (Ardea herodias fannini) at Vancouver, B. C. -- On June 9, 1921, in company with two friends I visited the Heronry in Stanley Park. This heronry is situated near the recreation park and the majority of the nests are in a tall spruce tree. I counted thirty-seven nests, all of which were in plain view, and estimated that there were approximately sixty to eighty young birds in the nests. The ground was littered with egg shells, some of which were collected. One shell was nearly perfect. A nest and six young dead birds were found on the ground beneath the tree. These young were undoubtedly from two nests as in no instance could I find where there were more than three young in any one nest, and the majority of the nests contained two young only. The young birds remained in the nests all summer and during the month of August they followed the parent birds to the feeding grounds along the shores of the Inlet and the nearby islands, returning to the heronry late at night, usually between the hours of ten and twelve. At the time of writing, August 23, the greater number of the young birds have left the nests for good, and I noticed quite a number of them at Boundry Bay on August 20 and 21.

Kenneth Racey,
Vancouver, B. C.

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Franklin's Grouse, (Canachites franklini), in British Columbia. -- On July 2 of the present year, when climbing a logging trail near the old Pemberton Trail on Sproak Mountain between the Alpha and Neta Lakes, my attention was drawn to something shining amongst the moss and grass in a little hollow. Looking carefully I immediately recognized the form of a young grouse, whose shining eyes I had seen. Calling my two companions to come and see the little bird, I approached within four feet, when it flew to a moss-covered rock under a fir tree on which the mother bird and three other chicks were standing. As I drew near the young scattered, two flying to low trees, one to a fallen log and the fourth hiding amongst the ferns and moss. The mother bird chuckled and called the young, but in no way appeared alarmed and allowed me to approach within a couple of feet, when she would ruffle out her feathers and back slowly away. Following after one of the chicks which had perched in a small fir tree, I tried to see how close I could approach, if not touch it, but just as I was about to put my hand on it, it took fright and flew into the thick brush. We watched these birds for a short time, admiring their pretty colouring and friendly demeanour and as we turned to go, one of my companions called my attention to a young grouse, dead - and lying on the end of a fallen log. On picking it up it was found to be still quite warm, evidently having been dead but a very short time. I dropped the little bird into my pocket and in the evening when the skin was removed, three large claw marks were found, one claw had penetrated the neck and the other two the body. No doubt it had been the victim of some hawk or owl, which we had disturbed at the critical moment and who in its haste to escape had dropped its prey. This young grouse was a male bird about ten days or two weeks of age. It was killed about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and its crop contained the following miscellaneous collection: 2 red ants, 1 green and gray caterpillar 1 1/4 inch long, 1 green caterpillar 1/2 inch long, and 61 heads of a species of moss which grows abundantly in that region.

Kenneth Racey,
Vancouver, B. C.

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Head North Fork Quinault River,
Olympic Mountains, Wn.
August 8, 1921.

In spite of some difficulties due to the heavy snows of last season, the work of the United State Biological Survey in the Olympic Peninsula is proceeding in a fairly satisfactory manner. The Party includes George G. Cantwell of Puyallup, Field Assistant, Oscar Peterson of Forks, packer, and Walter P. Taylor, Assistant Biologist, in charge. The itinerary to date is as follows: Mt. Angeles, Happy Lake, Elwha River to Dodwell, Rixon Pass, upper Dosewallips River, and upper Quinault River. Remaining to be visited after this date (August 8) are the Sol Duc, Bogachiel, and Hoh Rivers.

Mammals and birds have been found to be much less abundant in the Olympics than in the Cascade Mountains or the Sierra Nevada, and one of the most interesting phases of the work has been the opportunity afforded for faunal and floral comparisons.

Unusual takes include the *Leucosticte*, secured between Mts. Seattle and Noyes above Elwha Basin, and undoubtedly breeding on Happy Lake Ridge. Most of the species of mammals secured by the Elliot party, from the Field Museum, to the Happy Lake region in 1899, have been taken, and several forms have been collected which they did not encounter.

With the completion of field work for the season of 1921, investigations in Washington will be terminated, and attention will be given to the compilation of reports on the birds, mammals, and life zones of the State.

Walter P. Taylor,
Biological Station,
La Jolla, Calif.

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With the U. S. Biological Survey Party
in the Olympic Peninsula, Washington.
Head of North Fork Quinault River,
August 8, 1921.

We had hoped on this trip to get some information on the report from the Indians that the Marbled Murrelet nested high up in the Olympics, but so far we have not been able to verify this in any particular, as no Murrelets have been seen or heard since we left salt water.

For a district of heavy rainfall, we have been fortunate in experiencing nearly six weeks perfect weather. We have travelled dry trails and slept under clear skies for the entire trip.

Geo. G. Cantwell,
Puyallup, Wn.

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J. Hooper Bowles writes that on August 22, while on a trip to the Tacoma Flats, he saw a flock of twenty-two Long-billed Dowitchers (*Limnodromus griseus scolopaceus*) which was the largest flock of these birds that he had ever seen in that section of the country. He also states that one of the oddest things about the trip was the entire absence of Killdeer, something that was absolutely without precedent over there.

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